

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSF-04 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-05

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-12 FPC-01

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 EPA-04

CEQ-02 COA-02 SSO-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 060854Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3045

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 4468

DEPT. ALSO FOR NSF, ATTN: DR. T.O. JONES AND MR. DAN HUNT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, TPHY, TGEN, NO, SW

SUBJECT: US OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSEL DRILLING REPORTED ON NOR-
WEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

1. AMBASSADOR THOMAS BYRNE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JOHN GRIFFITHS, AMEMBASSY OSLO, INFORMED SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE STOCKHOLM TODAY THAT NORWEGIAN PRESS AND RADIO REPORTED THAT A US OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL DISCOVERED OIL AND GAS DURING DRILLING OPERATIONS 200 KILOMETERS WEST OF LOFOTEN AT VORINGPLATAN. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, DRILLING WAS CONDUCTED IN SPITE OF NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO GRANT A PERMIT TO DRILL. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT WISH TO MEET PRESS UNTIL HE HAS FACTS IN THIS CASE AND HE HAS TURNED TO AMEMBASSY OSLO FOR INFORMATION.

2. ONE SWEDISH NEWSPAPER TODAY CARRIED SHORT FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "OIL WAR IN NORWAY AFTER A NEW FIND,
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DRILLING WITHOUT PERMISSION." THE DRILLING OPERATIONS WERE

"ORGANIZED BY AN AMERICAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION..." AND INCLUDED "SIX AMERICANS, A SOVIET, AN ENGLISHMAN, AND A NORWEGIAN RESEARCHER..." NORWAY REGARDS "VORINGPLATAN AS A PART OF THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND HAS FORBIDDEN ALL DRILLINGS NORTH OF 62 DEGREES LATITUDE."

3. THE SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE STOCKHOLM, AS PART OF HIS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO AMEMBASSY OSLO:

A. THE OPERATIONS REFERRED TO ARE PRESUMED TO BE THOSE OF THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER. WAS NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL REQUESTED? THROUGH WHAT CHANNELS? WHO WERE THE NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED AND WHAT WAS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE REQUEST?

B. IF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSED THE REQUEST TO DRILL IN THE AREA (OR IF PERMISSION WAS NOT REQUESTED), DID US CO-CHIEF SCIENTIST KNOW THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION? HOW WAS THE INFORMATION RECEIVED? WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT, AMEMBASSY OSLO, NSF, AND SCRIPPS INSTITUTION?

C. DID THE PARTICIPATING NORWEGIAN OCEANOGRAPHER KNOW THE ATTITUDE OF HIS GOVERNMENT?

D. IF OIL AND GAS WERE DISCOVERED DURING THE DRILLING OPERATIONS, WHAT PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT?

E. DOES NSF HAVE AVAILABLE 16MM MOTION PICTURE FILMS DESCRIBING THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER, ITS PURPOSE, METHOD OF OPERATION, ETC.? IF SO, THE BEST ONE SHOULD BE AIRMAILED TO AMEMBASSY OSLO FOR NORWEGIAN TV AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC SHOWING.

F. REQUEST NSF CONSIDER SENDING US CO-CHIEF SCIENTIST WHO PARTICIPATED IN DRILLING TO BRIEF SENIOR NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS ON OPERATIONS IN VORINGPLATAN AREA.

4. PRESS REPORTS CREATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN NORWAY AND DEBATE IS LIKELY TO INTENSIFY NEXT FEW DAYS. REQUEST PRIORITY RESPONSE TO ITEMS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 FOR AMEMBASSY OSLO, WITH INFORMATION COPY THIS EMBASSY. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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